Message Text

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PAGE 01   RABAT 03890 161352Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
                -----------------088756 161352Z /46
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FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2528

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 3890

NODIS

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, MO, CD, US
SUBJ: MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CHAD

REF: STATE 166492

1. AS NOTED IN RABAT 3776, MOROCCANS HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING
CHAD SITUATION WITH FRENCH AND EGYPTIANS, AND MIGHT CONSIDER
PROVIDING CHAD WITH LIMITED MATERIAL BUT NOT TROOPS. ANY
DECISION WOULD HAVE TO AWAIT KING HASSAN'S ASSESSMENT OF
FINDINGS OF GOM MILITARY MISSION RECENTLY SENT TO CHAD.
MOROCCANS WOULD WELCOME ASSISTANCE TO CHAD BY OTHERS. HOWEVER,
THEY WOULD, IN OUR JUDGMENT, PREFER A SERIES OF COORDINATED
BILATERAL EFFORTS TO A FORMAL MEETING WHICH LIKELY TO BECOME
WIDELY KNOWN. TYPICAL MOROCCAN DISCRETION WOULD BE ALL THE
GREATER BECAUSE OF FEAR OF LIBYAN RETALIATION AGAINST MOROCCO
BY STEPPING UP ASSISTANCE TO THE POLISARIO GUERRILLAS IN THE
SAHARA.

2. IF DEPARTMENT NEVERTHELESS DECIDES TO PURSUE IDEA OF
CONFERENCE, PARIS WOULD NOT BE IDEAL FROM MOROCCAN POINT OF
VIEW, AS THIS WOULD IMPLY LEADING ROLE FOR NON-AFRICAN, FORMER
COLONIAL POWER IN A REGIONAL DISPUTE. MOROCCANS WOULD BE LEAST
AVERSE TO CAIRO OR ANOTHER SITE IN AFRICA, BUT NOT RABAT.

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3. EXTENT OF MOROCCAN ASSISTANCE TO CHAD WILL NECESSARILY BE
LIMITED, IN LIGHT OF GOM'S PRESSING MILITARY NEEDS. SMALL
ARMS AND VEHICLES SEEM MOST LIKELY ITEMS MOROCCANS COULD SPARE IN
TOKEN QUANTITIES.
ANDERSON

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Reason:
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